

# MIT accepts 8.5% of early applicants from record pool of 7,767

*International students were allowed  
to apply in early round for first time*



TRISTAN HONSCHEID—THE TECH

MIT admitted 656 early action applicants to the Class of 2020 last month, out of a pool of 7,767, according to the MIT admissions website.

By Gabriella Studt

On Dec. 16, 656 students were admitted to MIT's class of 2020. With a record-high 7,767 early action applicants this year, the early-admission rate sunk to 8.4 percent, down from 9.6 percent last year.

The dramatic increase in early applications may be attributed to a change in policy this year. For the first time, international students were allowed to apply for consideration during the early action round of admissions.

Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 said that he was "really pleased" to be able to open early action program to international students.

The policy change "certainly made the decisions that much tougher — we received about a thousand applications from international students — but also allowed us to admit a few more students than we did last year," Schmill said.

Among the early admits, 6 per-

cent are international students. By comparison, about 9.7 percent of the current undergraduate student body is international.

The diversity of this year's early admits extends beyond just the geographic: 14 percent will be the first in their family to graduate from college, 27 percent identify as underrepresented minorities, and 49 percent are women.

As always, the majority of applicants were not offered early admission. Among those students, 2,175 were rejected, while the other 4,776 were deferred. The latter group will be considered again among the larger pool of regular action applicants. Schmill noted that the available housing for future MIT students is a "critical" criterion in determining the class size for each year.

The remainder of this year's admissions decisions will remain a mystery until spring. In all likelihood, the majority of the MIT Class of 2020 have yet to receive their acceptance letters.

# MIT will not join CAAS, likes flexibility of its app

*Discussions to modify MyMIT underway*

By Emma Bingham  
STAFF REPORTER

MIT will not be joining the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success (CAAS), an organization of more than 80 colleges and universities that offers an alternative to the Common Application and seeks to help underserved students during the college preparation process.

Reflecting the belief that "early

engagement supports under-resourced students," CAAS offers an application platform similar to the Common Application, with the addition of a virtual "locker" that students can use beginning in ninth grade to store personal reflections, artwork, letters of recommendation, and other items possibly useful for applying to college. It also has a "collaboration" feature that

CAAS, Page 7

# After two years, Maseeh votes to rejoin Dormitory Council

*Campus's largest dorm left over budgetary concerns;  
now, DormCon represents all undergraduate dorms*

By Divya Gopinath  
STAFF REPORTER

After seceding in 2013, Maseeh Hall and its Executive Council (MHEC) decided to formally rejoin MIT's Dormitory Council (DormCon) this past December. This marks the first time in over forty years that DormCon represents every dorm at MIT.

The vote (61% in favor of rejoining) was conducted during MHEC's

normal election season after almost a year of negotiation. Because rejoining DormCon required an amendment to Maseeh's own constitution, dorm policy necessitated a resident-wide vote.

"DormCon contacted our house government to let us know that they had undergone a number of changes," MHEC President William S. Moses '18 said. "After a semester or two of discussion between MHEC and DormCon, the decision to rejoin was

presented to the residents. Doing so required a constitutional amendment [through a] vote, which is why we are rejoining DormCon at this time."

MHEC originally left DormCon citing "budget-related concerns," but an MHEC member said it was a rushed, "hasty" decision, according to a *Tech* article published after the vote in 2013.

Maseeh, Page 6

# Economics professors, staff move back to renovated E52



TRISTAN HONSCHEID—THE TECH

Building E52 reopened to the economics department this week following two years of extensive renovations. The facility will be renamed the "Morris and Sophie Chang Building" at a dedication ceremony this March.

MIT's economics department is moving back into Building E52 this week after more than two years of renovations to the 1938 Art Deco building, which overlooks the Charles River.

The renovations "have restored the building's grand façade on Memorial Drive, reconfigured the interior to maximize space and encourage collaboration, and significantly improved the building's operating efficiency," MIT said in a December news release.

A seventh floor was added, providing more space for the MIT Faculty Club as well as a new conference center.

Building E52, the original Sloan Building, also houses administrative services for the Sloan School of Management, which is now headquartered next door at E62.

On March 3, the building will officially be renamed the "Morris and Sophie Chang Building" after Morris Chang '52 and Sophie Chang, who donated an undisclosed

amount to MIT for the renovations.

Economics professors, staff, and graduate students had been temporarily moved to Building E17 in 2013.

Furniture and files were still in the process of being moved back as of Wednesday, according to Lisa Desforge, an administrative officer in the economics department.

"It is great to be in our new space," Desforge wrote to department affiliates.

—Leon Lin

## IN SHORT

**The MIT Sustainability Idea Bank** is collecting ideas to "make MIT a global leader in Sustainability." Submit ideas online: <https://sustainabilitysolutions.mit.edu>

**The MIT European Career Fair** will take place Feb. 6. Upload resumes online by Jan. 15: <https://ecf.fairsey.com>

**Students must pre-register for spring classes by 5 p.m. Jan. 15 or face an \$85 late fee.** Jan. 15 is also the last day to enter the CI-H / CI-HW lotteries.

**Two new Hubway stations have opened on campus, at Vassar Street West near Westgate and Pacific Street station near Sidney-Pacific.** MIT subsidizes Hub-

way memberships, bringing the cost down to \$25/year.

**GEL applications are now open.** Visit <https://gelp.mit.edu/admissions> for deadlines and additional information.

**Send news information and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).**

## BOSTON CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TO BE HOT OR NOT

Sunday might break high temperature record. **WEATHER, p. 5**

## MEN'S SWIM & DIVE TAKES 1ST

Relay team sets new pool record. **SPORTS, p. 8**

## WOMEN FINISH 3RD

Team finishes 1st in backstroke. **SPORTS, p. 8**



## MATT DAMON TO SPEAK ON 2016 COMMENCEMENT

He said in December that he was 'honored.' **NEWS, p. 2**

## RED SOX SIGN RE- CORD DEAL WITH NEW PITCHER

\$217 million for 7 years. **SPORTS, p. 8**

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# Actor Matt Damon to speak before class of 2016 at June commencement

*Cambridge native and Harvard dropout is first entertainer in 17 years to receive the honor of addressing the Institute's graduates*

By Katherine Nazemi  
NEWS EDITOR

Actor and filmmaker Matt Damon will be the commencement speaker for the Class of 2016, MIT announced Dec. 10.

At MIT's 139th commencement this June, he will become the first entertainer in 17 years to give the keynote address, and the first speaker in six years from a non-science background.

"I am humbled and thrilled by this invitation," Damon told the MIT News Office. "I feel a deep affinity for MIT having grown up in the neighborhood. It's quite an honor to be the commencement speaker at a school that I couldn't have gotten into."

Damon attended Harvard University, where he wrote the first draft of what would become

his breakout film, *Good Will Hunting*. The Cambridge-born actor starred as the film's title character, a self-taught genius who works as a janitor at MIT, and whose brilliance is discovered after he solves a challenging problem in algebraic graph theory.

Recently, Damon starred in *The Martian*, which was released last October and had grossed \$573 million as of Dec. 6. In the film, Damon plays astronaut Mark Watney, who is forced to survive on Mars after a NASA mission leaves him behind.

Throughout his career, Damon has been nominated for six Golden Globe Awards. *Good Will Hunting*, which Damon co-wrote, won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, and Damon received a nomination for Best Actor.

In 2006, Damon embarked on a humanitarian mission, co-founding the H2O Africa Foundation to advocate and raise money for clean water initiatives in Africa. The foundation later merged with WaterPartners to become Water.org, and now provides microfinance loans to people in developing communities to help them gain access to safe water and sanitation.

Along with actors George Clooney, Brad Pitt, and others, Damon co-founded international aid organization Not on Our Watch to bring global attention to human rights violations.

"Mr. Damon couples a passion for his art with a passion for making the world a better place, much as our students couple a passion for science and technology with a passion to improve the world," Eric Grimson, chair of

the Commencement Committee, told the MIT News Office. "I am sure his message will inspire our students to follow that passion and tackle some of the world's great challenges, such as in water, health, or education."

Damon is "an inspiration to MIT students, teaching us that humility knows no bounds," Anish Punjabi, president of the Class of 2016, said in a statement. "The world needs more well-rounded leaders who are passionate about improving society through one genuine act of kindness at a time."

The most recent commencement speakers have included U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith '86, DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman, Dropbox founder Drew W. Houston '05, and Salman A. Khan '98, founder of Khan Academy.

# Do you have a question for President Reif?

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WEATHER

Warm, wet weather expected Sunday

By Vince Agard  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

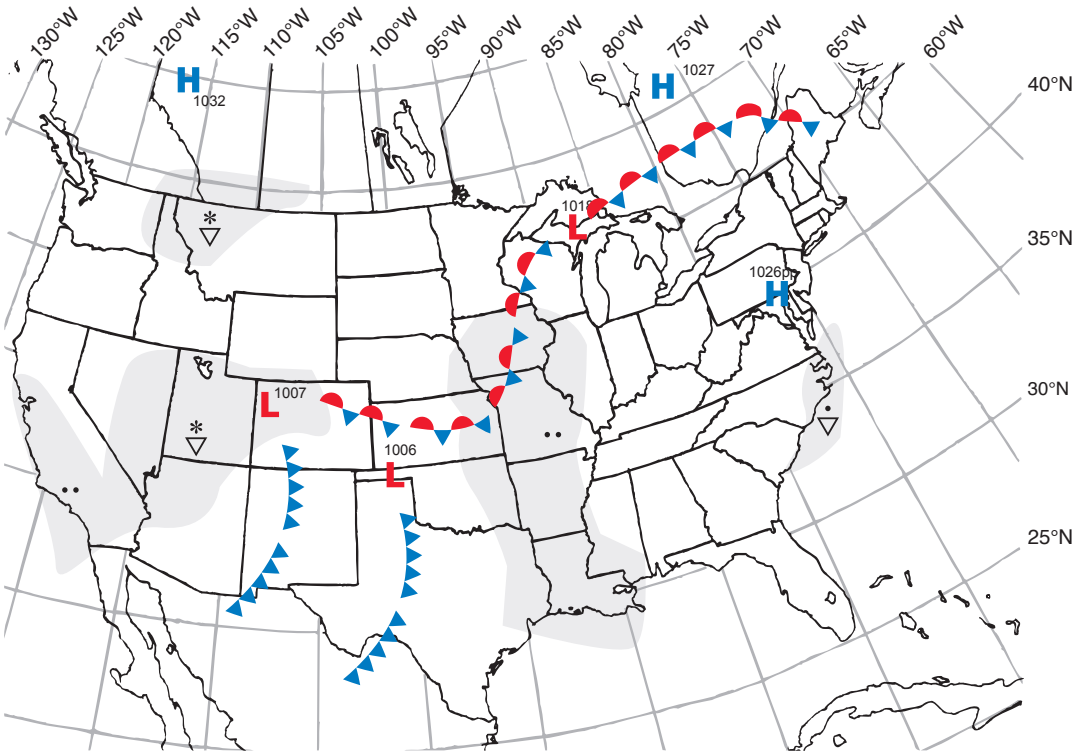
After a record-shattering month of December, the first burst of winter cold has hit the Institute. Ocean-effect snow showers on Monday were followed by Tuesday morning temperatures at Logan Airport plunging to 8°F (-13°C), while a steady northwesterly wind made it feel like -8°F (-22°C). Here on campus, the weather station on the roof of the Green Building recorded a low temperature of 6.9°F (-13.9°C). These temperatures were in stark contrast to the last month of 2015, in which the average high was 52°F (11°C); it was 69°F (21°C) on Christmas Eve, and the temperature only dipped below the freezing mark on four occasions. On average, the month of December was 10.6°F (5.9 K) warmer than

average, and 4.3°F (2.4 K) warmer than the next-warmest December on record.

A relatively warm ocean surface will combine with an incoming warm front to bring temperatures back above normal for the next few days. After a high of 45°F (7°C) on Wednesday, highs will remain near the temperature of the nearby sea surface (in the low 40s °F) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. On Sunday, a low pressure system will bring a warm front along with copious amounts of rain to the Boston area. Depending on the exact track of the storm, Boston could challenge its record high temperature for January 10, which is 56°F (13°C). A cold front on Sunday night will bring an end to rain, and a return to more seasonable temperatures for the beginning of next week.

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny, high 43°F (6°C). Winds light and variable.  
**Tonight:** Clear, low 30°F (-1°C). Winds N at 5-10 mph.  
**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny, with a slight chance of a light wintry mix Friday night. High 40°F (4°C), with winds N at 5-10 mph.  
**Saturday:** A slight chance of light rain or snow showers, otherwise cloudy, with highs in the low 40s °F (6°C).  
**Sunday:** Rain, becoming heavy at times. Highs in the mid 50s °F (12°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, January 7, 2016

| Weather Systems        | Weather Fronts     | Precipitation Symbols |           | Other Symbols  |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>H</b> High Pressure | --- Trough         | Snow *                | Rain •    | ☁ Fog          |
| <b>L</b> Low Pressure  | ⬮ Warm Front       | Showers ▽             | Light *   | ⚡ Thunderstorm |
| § Hurricane            | ⬮ Cold Front       | Moderate **           | Heavy *** | ∞ Haze         |
|                        | ⬮ Stationary Front |                       |           |                |

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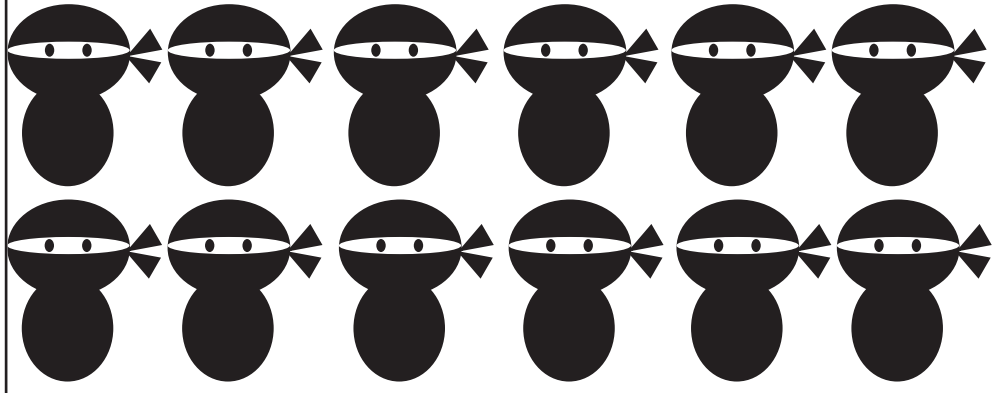




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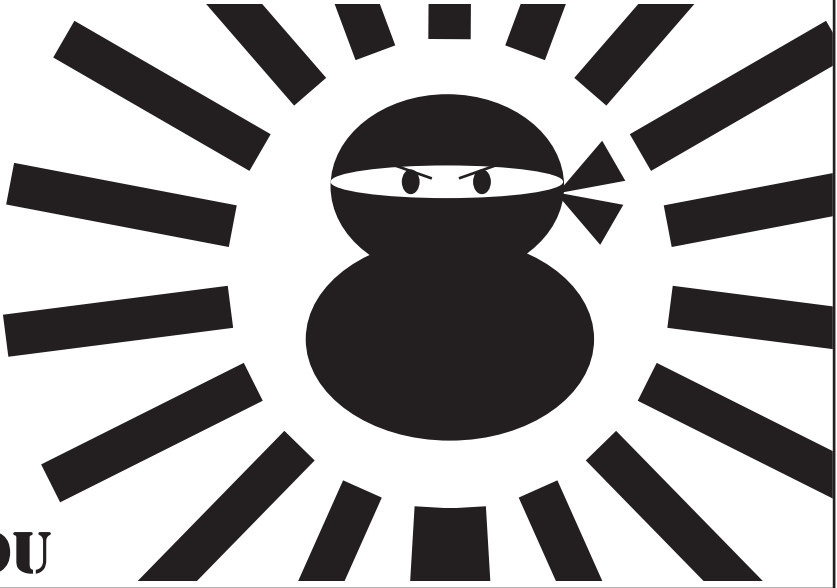
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# Maseeh had left DormCon two years ago, citing budgetary concerns that have since been addressed

*Maseeh Boat Cruise and Maseeh Hall Formal among the dorm’s large events that could benefit from the additional funding that only a coalition of dorms can provide*

**Maseeh**, from Page 1

“Since Maseeh was a new dorm, we didn’t have that many events like Baker’s signature piano drop or the infamous East Campus rollercoaster,” current MHEC Justice Alejandro Cabrales ’18 said. “We were still paying the DormCon fee of \$5 per student, but not getting that much out of it, so we chose to leave.”

DormCon President Yonadav Shavit ’16 said, “Maseeh

left DormCon a little under three years ago during a difficult period in DormCon’s history. Nearly all of their former concerns have since been addressed. Primarily, DormCon’s event funding policy, which was formerly a major point of contention, has since been overhauled.”

With the addition of the Maseeh Boat Cruise in the fall and the possibility of a Maseeh Hall Formal in the spring, the dorm now has events that require heavy funding,

making DormCon membership a more appealing option for MHEC. Maseeh can now publicize orientation events in the DormCon REX booklet, and DormCon’s relationship with the MIT administration may give MHEC a better way to communicate with the school itself.

“The most beneficial aspect of this for Maseeh will be collective bargaining power,” Moses said.

In particular, Maseeh can now participate in various DormCon

discussions such as new dorm construction, dining plan renegotiation, and dorm security. According to Moses, when Maseeh was separate from DormCon it had usually been underrepresented in any general body meeting.

Of course, this all comes at a significant cost. Because Maseeh is the most populous dorm, the DormCon student tax would be expensive for the house government. Cabrales asserted that MHEC would pay for the tax

without raising fees for Maseeh residents. Based on DormCon’s budget for this past fall, Maseeh’s dues to DormCon for about 500 students would comprise approximately 15% of the taxes leveraged by DormCon in the fall semester.

Bexley, which did not have a house government, left DormCon in 2008; Maseeh left five years after. With the demolition of Bexley and the readdition of Maseeh, DormCon now represents all MIT dorms.



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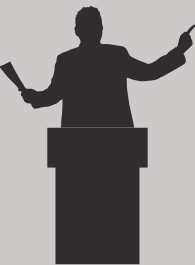
### Attention continuing students:

CI-H

Communication-Intensive HASS

CI-HW

Communication-Intensive HASS Writing



If you plan to take a subject designated CI-H or CI-HW this spring, you must select it in pre-registration on WebSIS by **Friday, January 15** in order to have the chance to be scheduled into it.

For more information, visit [enrollmenttools.mit.edu](https://enrollmenttools.mit.edu)



# Admissions office says CAAS is ‘not necessary’ for MIT

*MIT willing to experiment with new ideas to improve application*

CAAS, from Page 1

allows students to share these items with teachers, counselors, and mentors.

According to Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill, MIT is “very happy” with its own application. “We like having the flexibility to design our application the way we want,” Schmill wrote in an email to *The Tech*. “The new Coalition App was developed in large part as a back up to the Common App, and therefore not necessary for MIT.”

However, Schmill said that MIT is “willing to experiment” with new ideas regarding its application process.

“We are having preliminary discussions on redesigning the MyMIT portal and application. It will be a long-term project,” he said.

Schmill cited the Maker Portfolio, which allows students to showcase hands-on projects they have worked on, as an example of MIT’s willingness to experiment.

One of the key goals of CAAS is to aid low-income and disadvantaged students in the college admissions process. According to Schmill, MIT addresses this goal by reaching out to these students, both from the admissions office and through programs such as Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES) and Programs for Research in Mathematics, Engineering, and Science for High School Students (PRIMES).

A blog post on Inside Higher Ed expressed concerns that by involving students in the college admis-

sions process in ninth grade, CAAS will only heighten the stress felt by students. To move the focus of the platform from achievement to growth, the author wrote, “Maybe that ‘virtual college locker’ should require a certain number of screw-ups to be documented,” and students could “describe how that felt, and what they learned from those experiences, what is different about them now.”

Schmill said that some aspects of the MIT application were designed to reduce anxiety. He said that the application was revised about ten years ago to include only five spaces for extracurricular activities, and that the admissions office uses admissions blogs to make the process “as transparent as possible.”

“I think a lot of the anxiety comes from students not knowing exactly what colleges are looking for, and therefore thinking that colleges have outsized expectations for them,” Schmill said.

CAAS was announced in September 2015, so the 2016-17 application cycle will be the first in which it is open to students. The locker and collaboration tools will become available in April 2016, and the application portal itself will open in summer 2016.

CAAS includes Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, all of which also accept the Common Application. In order to become a member of CAAS, a school must have a 70 percent 6-year graduation rate, and private schools must meet students’ full demonstrated financial need.

Solution to Sudoku I  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 |

Solution to Techdoku I  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

Solution to Sudoku II  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Solution to Techdoku II  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 |

Solution to Vowel  
from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | B | G | U | N | S | L | A | G | A | S | A | P |   |   |
| E | L | O | P | E | P | I | S | A | N | A | D | A |   |   |
| N | A | T | I | O | N | A | L | H | O | L | I | D | A | Y |
| I | R | A | E | R | A | I | M | A | G | E |   |   |   |   |
| N | E | T | W | O | R | K | C | O | M | P | U | T | E | R |
|   |   |   | H | M | O | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | P | A | I | N |   |   | J | A | N |   | P | J | S |   |
| N | I | T | P | I | C | K | I | N | G | A | B | O | U | T |
| L | E | E |   | O | O | F |   |   |   | S | A | L | T | Y |
|   |   |   | R | U | I | N |   |   | C | U | T | S |   |   |
| N | O | T | A | S | F | A | R | A | S | I | K | N | O | W |
| I | V | I | N | S |   | A | P | E |   | A | A | H |   |   |
| N | U | T | C | R | A | C | K | E | R | S | U | I | T | E |
| E | L | H | I |   | L | E | E | R |   | O | F | F | E | R |
| R | E | E | D |   | P | O | D | S |   | P | O | S | S | E |

Solution to Stumper  
from page 4

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | O | X | P | L | E | A | T |   | E | R | N | S | T |   |
| A | L | F | R | E | S | C | O |   | C | A | N | A | P | E |
| G | D | A | Y | M | A | T | E |   | D | R | A | P | E | S |
| G | M | C |   | O | U | T | P | O | S | T |   | P | C | T |
| E | A | T | E | N |   | W | I | T |   | H | A | I | T | I |
| D | I | O | R |   | M | O | C | H | A |   | C | E | R | F |
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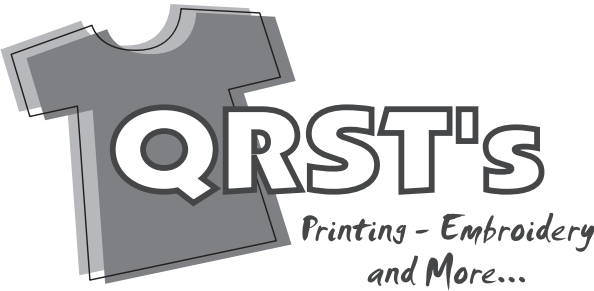
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